

CLAIMS

1. Piezoelectric ceramics characterized by containing, as a main component, a bismuth layer-structured compound having  $(M^{II}_{1-x}Ln_x)Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  crystals ( $M^{II}$  is an element selected from Sr, Ba, and Ca, Ln is an element selected from lanthanoids, and  $x$  is within a range of  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ ) and further containing, as secondary components, at least one of Mn oxide and Co oxide, and lanthanoid, wherein the content of the lanthanoid being the secondary component falls within a range of 0.02 to 0.12wt% in terms of oxide thereof.
2. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1, wherein the content of said Mn oxide or Co oxide falls within a range of 0.02 to 0.62wt% in terms of MnO or CoO.
3. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1, wherein lanthanoid selected as Ln is any one of La, Pr, Sm, Gd, Dy, and Ho.
4. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1, wherein the lanthanoid being the secondary component is any one of Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Dy, and Ho.